

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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ACTION: AmEmbassy MOSCOW

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DEPT advised that 5-7 members House Agriculture Committee, presumably accompanied by staff aides, plan visit USSR, all EE countries except Yugo and Poland, and UAR during period November 1-19. Group proposes travel Air Force jet. Tentative itinerary as follows: Washington-Helsinki-Leningrad-Moscow-Kiev-Sevastopol-Cairo-Sofia, etc., with other stops agricultural centers along route. Probable arrival Leningrad November 2 or 3. Committee has not RPT NOT indicated length proposed stay in USSR, but in view crowded schedule three-four days probably maximum. Group desires meet briefly Soviet QTE counterparts UNQTE and spend bulk of stay visiting farms and meeting working level agricultural officials.

While present climate relations not auspicious for this type visit, trip appears worthwhile in event Soviets willing cooperate. Embassy's views requested following points as soon as possible: 1. Are Soviets likely approve ^{itinerary} ~~trip~~ outlined above? 2. Could meetings appropriate officials be arranged? Soviet QTE counterparts UNQTE theoretically members Supreme Soviet, but meetings Agriculture Ministry officials would be more useful. 3. Assuming Soviets approve visit, will they allow places in which latter interested? Congressmen visit/ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Drafted by:
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Clearances:

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(substance)

State Department review completed

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4. We assume no possibility Soviet approval use Air Force jet for travel within USSR, but would appreciate Embassy's comments. One alternative would be use Air Force jet fly to and from Moscow with travel within USSR performed via Aeroflot. Embassy should not RPT NOT discuss trip with Soviets at this time. Subject will be discussed with Ambassador Kohler during consultation Department next week.

END

ACTING

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